

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /065 W

-----181254 093781 /43

P 181100Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1046

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 706

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, OVIP (SEELY, TALCOTT W), PFOR, CM, US, ET, SO, SU, FI

SUBJECT: WATTS, HORN AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 35331; (B) STATE 34960; (C) YAOUNDE 672;

(D) YAOUNDE 669; (E) STATE 2036

1. I APPRECIATE ALACRITY OF DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE REFTEL C. AMBASSADOR BINDZI DID NOT COME TO RESIDENCE FEB 16, SO I REQUESTED AND RECEIVED APPOINTMENT FOREIGN MINISTER KEUTCHA ON 17TH. DCM ACCOMPANIED.

2. AFTER TELLING FONMIN THAT WE HAD SUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO GET WITH DISPATCH DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTS ON GURC'S CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF FEBRUARY 14 (REF D), I HANDED HIM OUR NOTE WITH POINTS OF REF A, PARAS 4-6, WHICH HE READ. I ADDED ORALLY THE POINTS CONTAINED IN PARAS 5 AND 6. KEUTCHA SEEMED IMPRESSED BY OUR SPEEDY RESPONSE, INTERESTED IN OUR PLAN TO INVITE GURC OFFICIALS TO VISIT PREMISES, AND ASKED ME TO REPEAT NUMBER OF AMERICANS (30) AND CAMEROONIANS (CA.15) TO BE EMPLOYED AT STATION.

3. WHILE KEUTCHA SENT AMERICAN DESK OFFICER OWONA OUT OF ROOM TO FETCH HIS GLASSES SO THAT HE COULD READ OUR NOTE, I MENTIONED TO HIM THAT TRANSCAM III ITEM OF \$7,500,000  
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HAD GONE FORWARD IN CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION AND WAS THEREFORE NOW PUBLIC, HAVING BEEN APPROVED BY NEW ADMINISTRATION. HE ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT CONGRESS HAD ALREADY APPROVED, AND I EXPLAINED THAT WOULD BE NEXT STEP.

4. I TOOK OCCASION TO REMIND KEUTCH OF IMPENDING VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE (REF E), OF WHICH HE WAS

AWARE. HE IS PLANNING TO BE IN CAIRO FOR AFRO-ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING AND DOES NOT YET KNOW PRESIDENT AHIDJO'S PLANS, BUT THOUGHT THAT AHIDJO WOULD RECEIVE SEELYE IF IN TOWN.

5. WE TOLD KEUTCHA OF US INTEREST IN GURC'S VIEWS ON SITUATION ON HORN OF AFRICA (REF B), PRESENTING THIS AS EVIDENCE OF NEW US STANCE OF TALKING LESS AND LISTENING MORE TO AFRICAN VIEWS ON AFRICAN PROBLEMS, A FORMULATION THAT OBVIOUSLY APPEALED TO HIM. HE SAID HE WOULD RESPOND TO OUR INQUIRY AFTER HE HAD RECEIVED IT IN FORM OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE.

6. WITH RESPECT TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTTEL A, I THINK THAT WE ARE HITTING MAIN POINTS WHICH COUNT WITH GURC. ON TRANS-CAM III AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE, I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT GURC WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH OUR REQUEST AS WE MOVE FORWARD WITH THEIRS.

7. COMMENT: WHILE KEUTCHAS WAS BASICALLY NON-COMMITTAL, I HAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS FUNDAMENTALLY SYSPATHETIC TO OUR REQUEST, AS IS SUGGESTED ALSO BY SPEED WITH WHICH WE GOT APPOINTMENT ON BUSY DAY FOR HIM, AFTER HOURS WHEN FONMINISTRY WAS ALL BUT CLOSED DOWN AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL WAITED FOR US ON DOOR STEP. FURTHER INDICATION OF POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS GURC'S APOLOGY FOR TARDINESS OF THEIR RESPONSE CONTAINED IN THEIR NOTE AND ITERATED ORALLY BY KEUTCHA. I TOLD HIM THAT IT TOOK GURC A LITTLE LESS THAN THE SIX MONTHS IT TOOK US TO RESPOND TO GURC'S REQUEST OF JULY 5 FOR ARMS AID. WE BOTH DEPLORED LENGTH OF TIME IT TAKES OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO MOVE WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED, BUT AGREED THAT "LES FORMALITES SONT CONFIDENTIAL

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LES FORMALITES". BRINGING UP THESE PARTICULAR THREE MATTERS AT SAME TIME, ALTHOUGH I REALIZE LINKAGE PURELY ACCIDENTAL, LEAD KEUTCHA TO BELIEVE THAT USG ATTACHING GREATER IMPORTANCE GURC VIEWS AND ATTEMPTING RESPOND FAVORABLY THEIR DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.

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## Message Attributes

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